

Two Sites Join Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Program

Since its establishment in 1988, the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance (LTSM) Program, managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE–GJO), has provided stewardship services to sites that contain regulated low-level radioactive materials. Program responsibilities have increased steadily since 1988, both in number of sites and in issues to be addressed.

In 2000, DOE assigned the Salt Lake City Processing Site in Utah and the Grand Junction Office facility to the LTSM Program for long-term custody and care. These actions brought the total to 27 sites across the nation that the LTSM Program is responsible for. In addition, the Monticello, Utah, repository composite cover system was completed last spring and responsibility for the repository is in the process of being transferred to the LTSM Program. To date, the program has developed a Long-Term Surveillance Plan for the repository and conducted a site orientation. Final transfer of the repository is expected to occur in October 2001. Ultimately, the GJO LTSM Program will provide long-term custody and care to all DOE sites where other DOE operations are no longer present.

Although DOE is actively transferring the GJO facility to non-DOE ownership, DOE will remain at the GJO facility as a tenant and the site will remain as the base for LTSM Program operations. The continuing success of the stewardship operation at DOE–GJO lends credibility to the stewardship efforts of the entire DOE complex. Last October, DOE hired a new LTSM Program Manager, Art Kleinrath ([see related article on page 8](#)), from the DOE Mound Site in Ohio. “I am confident that my past experience in industry and remediation will further the program from the strong footing left by Russel Edge, the former manager of this program,” said Kleinrath.

The GJO LTSM Program, in conjunction with the DOE Headquarters Office of Long-Term Stewardship, has hosted meetings with stakeholder groups to discuss the composition and responsibilities of a viable stewardship program. The third Long-Term Stewardship Workshop was held in Denver, Colorado, last August ([see related article on page 3](#)). GJO will host the stewardship workshop again in 2001 and will continue to disseminate program information to stewards, remediation planners, stakeholders, and regulators through other channels.

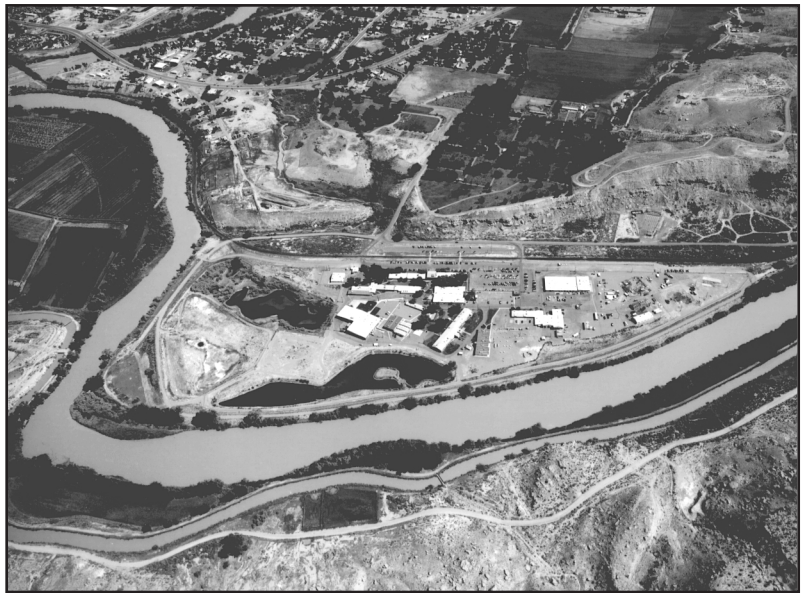


Research continues at LTSM Program sites. Often, this research requires many years of observations to define processes and to identify solutions for what are, generally, slow-acting phenomena. The program is generating results from activities such as analog site modeling, arid land revegetation, and validation and monitoring of new cover technologies. Many LTSM Program research initiatives involve working in cooperation with specialists from DOE national laboratories, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and universities.

Challenges lie ahead for the program. Issues include designing, monitoring, and enforcing institutional controls; determining appropriate levels of site monitoring; defining the appropriate use of risk-based arguments for stewardship decisions; and choosing appropriate technology to enhance monitoring and surveillance. Throughout these efforts, GJO is committed to maintaining community involvement and addressing community needs. The findings and conclusions of these issues will apply to other sites that will transition into stewardship in the years to come.

The LTSM Program anticipates the publication of its 2000 Annual Report this winter. The report presents a summary of operations and recent accomplishments and provides descriptions of the spectrum of activities that constitute a working stewardship program as well as the condition of and concerns about the sites in DOE–GJO custody.

For more information about the LTSM Program, please contact Art Kleinrath, DOE–GJO LTSM Program Manager, at (970) 248–6037 or visit the LTSM Program website at <http://www.doegjpo.com/programs/ltsm/>. ♦



DOE assigned the Grand Junction Office in Grand Junction, Colorado, to the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Program in 2000.